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Arbat, the Soul of Moscow

TOURIST SCHEMATIC MAP



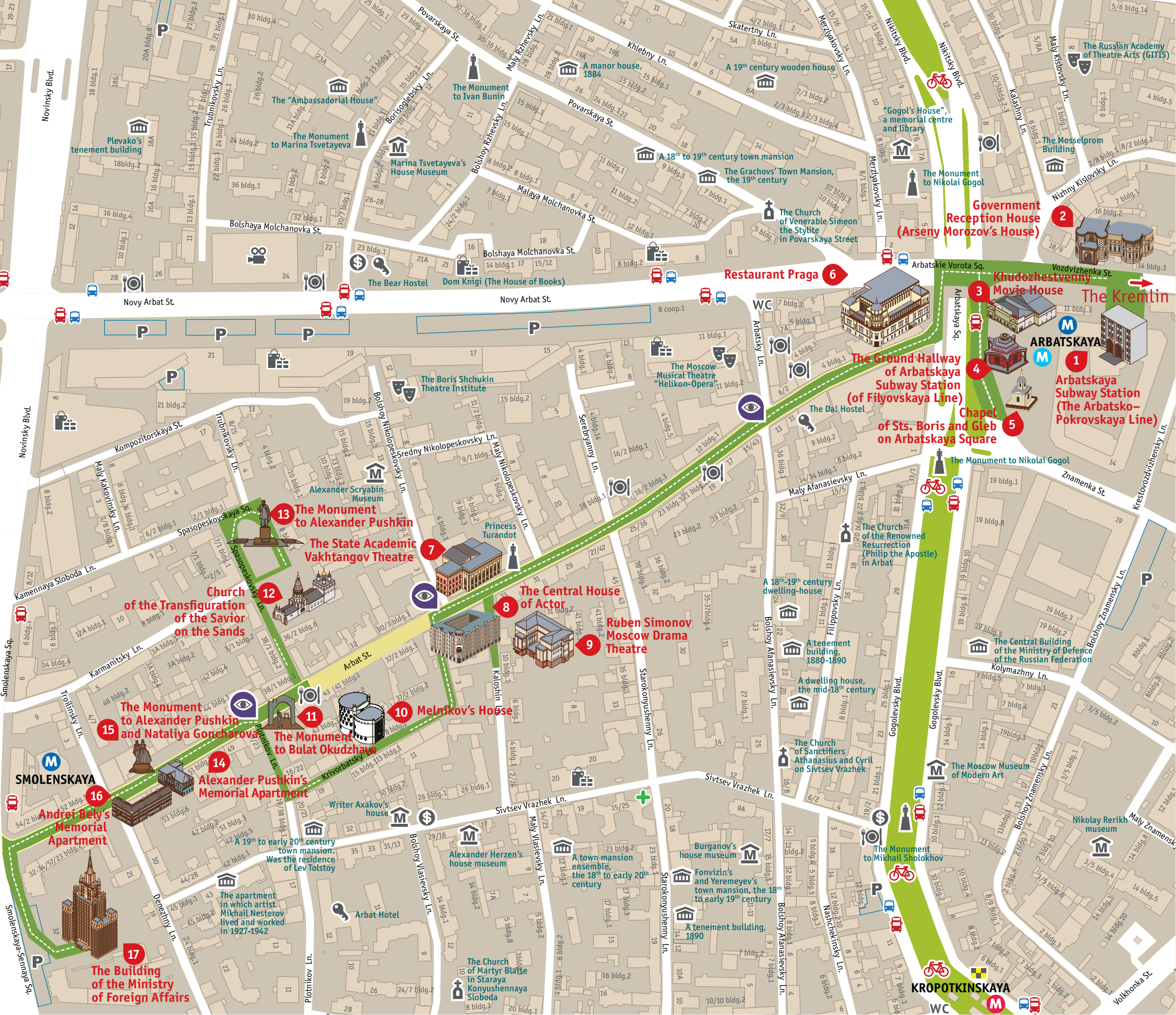
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Arbat, the Soul of Moscow

Arbatskaya Subway Station — Vozdvizhenka Street — Arbatskaya Square — Arbat Street — Smolenskaya-Sennaya Square.
Route length is 3,015 m, area 1 sq. km. Timing (without visiting museums) is 1.5 hours



1 Arbatskaya Subway Station (The Arbatsko–Pokrovskaya Line). One of the most luxurious Moscow subway stations opened in 1953 is an example of the Muscovite baroque style popular at the turn of the 18th century. A succession of delicately decorated arches and gilt chandeliers evokes the sensation of lightness and featheriness. The ground hallway of the station looks more reserved as in the 1970s it used to be built into the premises of the General Staff of the Ministry of defence of the Russian Federation.

2 Government Reception House (Arseny Morozov's House). Another building, resembling at all this amazing late 19th century house combining several architectural styles, cannot be found in Moscow. Popular at that time Art Nouveau and eclecticism are complemented with the exotic Moorish Revival style typical for Spanish architecture.

3 Khudozhestvennyy Movie House. This legendary cinema celebrated its centennial in 2009. But, despite its age, it is in step with the time: viewers can enjoy five movie halls including those with facilities for showing digital and 3D films.

4 The Ground Hallway of Arbatskaya Subway Station (of Filyovskaya Line). The station was opened in 1935. It is not as luxuriously decorated as its namesake, but, instead, it has preserved its ground hallway shaped as a five-pointed star, one of the Moscow Metro symbols.

5 Chapel of Sts. Boris and Gleb on Arbatskaya Square. The chapel was built in 1997 to commemorate the ancient church located not far from the place and demolished in the Soviet times.

Arbat Street. If the Kremlin and Red Square are the heart of the capital, Arbat is the soul of Moscow. In order not to confuse with the New Arbat Avenue, this street is sometimes referred to as the Old Arbat, and there are really many ancient buildings in it. But what is of special value, is the festive atmosphere of the first pedestrian street of the capital. However, inspite of the enormous popularity of Arbat, the mystery of its name remains undiscovered. According to one of the most viable versions, the name is related to the Arabic word “arbad” which is the plural for “rabad” meaning “suburb” or “outskirts”. Originally, the name was used for the entire district, which, by the standards of that time, was located on the outskirts.

6 Restaurant Praga. A public house with the same name has existed in this building since 1872. With a new owner, Praga became a first-class place visited by outstanding artists, actors, writers. After the revolution, there was a canteen here and later a restaurant again. The appearance of Praga was also changing.

7 The State Academic Vakhtangov Theatre. Since its opening in 1921, the theatre has been welcoming its spectators in the well-known building in Arbat. The most renowned production of the theatre is considered to be the Princess Turandot based on Carlo Gozzi's fairytale. In 1997, a fountain in the shape of the legendary heroine was built near the theatre.



8 The Central House of Actor. This building constructed in 1913–1914 by architect Valentin Dubovskoy as a tenement building, cannot be overlooked. It attracts attention thanks to its dimensions – for the beginning of the last century it was a real skyscraper; to its gloomy look, and, of course, to the figures of knights dispassionately looking over the floating Arbat. Today this is the place for the Central House of Actor with its five acting areas, where evenings, meetings, presentations, and theatrical workshops are held.

9 Ruben Simonov Moscow Drama Theatre. Was founded as a studio theatre in 1988, and in 1995 it moved to its present building.

10 Melnikov's House. There is a very interesting building in Krivoarbatsky Lane. This is architect Konstantin Melnikov's house workshop built in 1927–1929. Both professionals and simple architecture devotees cannot help being astonished at his unique design solutions. Currently, the house cannot be accessed.

11 The Monument to Bulat Okudzhava. In 1997, a decision was taken to immortalize the memory of this distinguished man of letters and composer in this very place, in his favourite street anthemed by him many a time. The sculptural composition itself, showing the poet leaving a typical Arbat court, appeared in 2002.

12 Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior on the Sands. It is this very church that is painted on the famous picture by Vasily Polenov Moscow Court. A church has been here since the 17th century, and the existing building was constructed in the early 18th century. In the Soviet times the church was closed. Now it is a functional church.

13 The Monument to Alexander Pushkin. Not far from the church there is a small park with a monument to Aleksander Pushkin (sculpturer Yuri Dines), erected here in 1993.

14 Alexander Pushkin's Memorial Apartment. On the first floor of this house in Arbat Alexander Pushkin lived with his wife Nataliya Goncharova for three months. Now it is a museum, with the items providing details of the poet's young days, his relations with Moscow, Nataliya Goncharova's family, and their children. This place, with its heartwarming atmosphere, must be visited by any admirer of the great Russian poet.

53, Arbat St.,
phone: 007(499) 241-92-95
daily: 10.00–18.00, Thursday 12.00–21.00, day off: Monday

15 The Monument to Alexander Pushkin and Nataliya Goncharova. Opposite the house, there is a sculpture of Alexander Pushkin and Nataliya Goncharova entering their house and inviting guests (sculpturers Alexander and Igor Burganov).

16 Andrei Bely's Memorial Apartment. In the apartment where the distinguished writer, an outstanding representative of the Silver Age was born, there is a museum of his life and oeuvre. Besides, musical evenings, scientific conferences, and art shows are held here.

55, Arbat St.,
phone: 007(499) 241-77-02
daily: 10.00–18.00, Thursday 12.00–21.00, day off: Monday

17 The Building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. One of the Stalin's High-Rise, 27 storeys high, built in 1948–1953. The original project did not include the sharp ending; it was added in order to provide the uniform look of all “Stalin's High-Rises”.

